

Blessed Michael Rua and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians

Rome (Italy) -- On the occasion of the centennial of the death of Blessed Michael Rua (1910-2010), the first successor of St. John Bosco, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians recalled this great figure, so close to the story of their growth from the very beginnings. The encounter stressed in particular his contribution to the development of the Institute during a time of social and institutional change and presented the publication of his letters to the FMAs.

On Thursday, February 4, in the auditorium of the FMA Generalate there was a celebratory encounter moderated by Sr. Piera Cavaglià, secretary general, entitled "Blessed Michael Rua and the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians: A style of government faithful to Don Bosco and the signs of the times." Those present included Mother Yvonne Reungoat and the General Council, the group of 22 neo-provincials who are in Rome for a formation meeting, many sisters of the houses dependent on the Generalate and from the Roman Province, and members of the Salesian Family.

Reflections were offered by Sr. Grazia Lo Parco, FMA, professor of Church history with a report entitled "Fr. Rua and the FMA Institute: between continuity and innovation"; Fr. Francesco Motto, SDB, director of the Salesian Historical Institute with "The Letters of Fr. Rua to the FMAs"; Sr. M. Virginia Colombo, FMA, professor of literature and specialist in Salesian history with "The Journeys of Fr. Michael Rua"; Sr. Claudia Daretti, FMA, provincial secretary of the Roman Province, with "Fr. Rua and the Roman Province of the FMAs." The meeting was introduced by a greeting from Mother Yvonne, who stressed the event and its significance for the contemporary life and history of the Salesian Sisters.

At the conclusion of the roundtable discussion, participants could visit the exhibit entitled "Fr. Michael Rua, 'another Don Bosco,'" conceived and put together by Fr. Motto and temporarily set up in the Generalate.